This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-105. (Cancelled)

106.   (Previously Presented)   A method for obtaining a digital license

for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

contacting, by a license requestor, a license provider;

sending, by the license requestor, a license request for the license to the

contacted license provider;

checking, by the license provider, the license request for validity;

negotiating, by the license requestor and the license provider, terms and

conditions for the requested license;

generating, by the license provider, the requested license; and

issuing, by the license provider, the generated license to the license requestor.

107.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the

digital content has corresponding license acquisition information including a location of a

license provider for providing the license, the method further comprising determining, by the

license requestor, the location of the license provider from the license acquisition

information, wherein contacting the license provider comprises contacting the license

provider at the determined location.

108.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the

license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein

contacting the license server occurs over the communications network.

109.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 108 wherein

sending the license request and issuing the generated license occur over the established

network connection.

110.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein sending the

license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the

license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the

security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content.

111. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 110 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request information.

112. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a version number of the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

113. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 112 further comprising refusing to issue the requested license until the security portion is upgraded to a version having a current version number.

114. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

115.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein
sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license
provider, the license request information including an identification of the license requestor,
and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license
requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is
license-able.

116.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein the
license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request comprises
sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information
including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity
includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such
device is license-able.

117.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein
sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license
provider, the license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital
content, the method further comprising locating, by the license provider, license provider
information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID, the license provider
information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data
regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each
type of license

118.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 117 further

comprising transmitting, from the license provider to the license requestor, information on the

types of licenses available for the digital content.

119.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 117 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

120.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 119 wherein the

license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the

requested license comprises generating a license further including the decryption key (KD)

for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public

key of the device.

121.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 119 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a digital

signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the

digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

122.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 119 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a certificate

indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the method further comprising locating, by the license provider, the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content based on the key ID.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes providing, by the license requestor to the license provider, further information as defined by the license provider.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

127.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein

negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for

the requested license.

128.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the

license request.

129.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 further

comprising maintaining, by the license provider, a record of the issued license.

130.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 129 further

comprising providing, by the license provider to the license requestor, a re-issue of the issued

license based upon the record of the issued license and upon request by the license requestor,

wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

131.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 further

comprising placing, by the license requestor, the issued license in a license storage location.

132.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 106 wherein

issuing the generated license comprises issuing the generated license in a form separate from

the digital content.

133.   (Previously Presented)   The digital license as obtained by the method of claim 106.

134.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 133 for rendering a piece of digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the digital license comprising:

the content ID of the digital content;

a license rights description specifying terms and conditions that must be satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and

the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the decryption key being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)), wherein the device can apply the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption key (KD).

135.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 wherein the license rights description is encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

136.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 further comprising a digital signature for validating the license.

137.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 136 wherein the license is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and wherein the digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

138.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 136 wherein the

digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein alteration of

the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

139.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 136 wherein the

digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD))

prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

140.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 wherein the

license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital license

further comprising a license language tag specifying the license language.

141.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 wherein the

license is provided by a license server and the digital content is provided by a content server,

the license further comprising a certificate from the content server indicating that the license

server has authority from the content server to provide the license.

142.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 141 wherein the

license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

143.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 142 wherein the

content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the

private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the content

server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

144.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 wherein the

license is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the license, the

license further comprising a certificate from the root source indicating that the license server

has authority from the root source to provide the license.

145.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 144 wherein the

license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

146.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 145 wherein the

root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the

private key of the root source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root

source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

147.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 134 wherein the

license is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to provide the

license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to authorize the

license server, the license further comprising a first certificate from the root source indicating

that the intermediary source has authority from the root source to authorize the license server, and a second certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has authority from the intermediary source to provide the license.

148.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 147 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license server.

149.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 148 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private key of the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the encrypted signature of the second certificate.

150.   (Previously Presented)   A method for a license requestor to obtain a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

contacting a license provider;

sending a license request for the license to the contacted license provider, the license provider thereafter checking the license request for validity;

negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license

provider, the license provider thereafter generating the requested license; and

receiving the generated license as issued by the license provider.

151.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

digital content has corresponding license acquisition information including a location of a

license provider for providing the license, the method further comprising determining the

location of the license provider from the license acquisition information, wherein contacting

the license provider comprises contacting the license provider at the determined location.

152.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein

contacting the license server occurs over the communications network.

153.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 152 wherein

sending the license request and receiving the generated license occur over the established

network connection.

154.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein sending the

license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the

license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the

security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content.

155.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the

license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the

license request information including a version number of the security portion, the license

provider checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such

version number is current.

156.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the

license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the

license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying

authority certifying the security portion, license provider checking the certificate with the

digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has

been modified.

157.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein

sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license

provider, the license request information including an identification of the license requestor,

the license provider checking the identified license requestor against a list of license

requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

158.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request comprises

sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information

including an identification of the device, the license provider checking the identified device

against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

159.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein

sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license

provider, the license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital

content, the license provider locating license provider information corresponding to the

digital content based on the content ID.

160.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 159 wherein the

license provider information includes a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms

and conditions for each type of license, the method further comprising receiving from the

license provider information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

161.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 159 wherein

receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

162.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 161 wherein the

license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the

requested license comprises receiving a license further including the decryption key (KD) for

decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key

of the device.

163.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 161 wherein

receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a digital

signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the

digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

164.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 161 wherein

receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a certificate

indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

165.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein
sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license
provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key
(KD) for decrypting the digital content, the license provider locating the decryption key (KD)
based on the key ID.

166.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 165 wherein the
license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the
requested license comprises receiving a license including the decryption key (KD) for
decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key
of the device.

167.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein
negotiating the terms and conditions includes providing further information to the license
provider as defined thereby.

168.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein
negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying
for the requested license.

169.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein
negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for
the requested license.

170.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

license provider maintains a record of the issued license, the method further comprising

receiving from the license provider upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon

the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case

where the issued license is lost.

171.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 further

comprising placing the issued license in a license storage location.

172.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 150 wherein the

receiving the license step comprises receiving the license in a form separate from the digital

content.

173.   (Previously Presented)   A method for a license provider to

provide a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

        receiving a request for the license from a license requestor having a public

key;

        checking the license request for validity;

        negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license

requestor;

generating the requested license including a decryption key (KD) for

decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key

of the license requestor; and

issuing the generated license to the license requestor.

174.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the

license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein

receiving the license request occurs over the communications network.

175.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 174 wherein

issuing the generated license occur over the communications network.

176.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein receiving

the license request comprises receiving license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the

security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content.

177.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 176 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the

license request information.

178.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the

license request comprises receiving license request information including a version number

of the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes

checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version

number is current.

179.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 178 further

comprising refusing to issue the requested license until the security portion is upgraded to a

version having a current version number.

180.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the

license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the

license request comprises receiving license request information including a certificate with a

digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein

checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital

signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

181.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the license requestor, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

182.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

183.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the method further comprising locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID, the license provider information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license.

184.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 183 further

comprising transmitting to the license requestor information on the types of licenses available

for the digital content.

185.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 183 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

186.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 185 wherein the

license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the

requested license comprises generating a license further including the decryption key (KD)

for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public

key of the device.

187.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 185 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a digital

signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the

digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

188.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 185 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a certificate

indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

189.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein

receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a key

ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the method further

comprising locating the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content based on the

key ID.

190.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 189 wherein the

license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the

requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key (KD) for

decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key

of the device.

191.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein

negotiating the terms and conditions includes receiving further information as defined by the

license provider.

192.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein

negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying

for the requested license.

193.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein

negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for

the requested license.

194.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the

license request.

195.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 further

comprising maintaining a record of the issued license.

196.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 195 further

comprising providing to the license requestor upon request a re-issue of the issued license

based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued

license in the case where the issued license is lost.

197.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 173 wherein the

issuing the license step comprises issuing the license in a form separate from the digital

content.

198.   (Previously Presented)   A digital license for rendering a piece of

digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a

content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the digital

license comprising:

the content ID of the digital content;

a license rights description specifying terms and conditions that must be

satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and

the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the decryption key

being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)), wherein the device can apply

the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption key (KD).

199.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 wherein the

license rights description is encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

200.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 further

comprising a digital signature for validating the license.

201.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 200 wherein the

license is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and wherein the

digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

202.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 200 wherein the

digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein alteration of

the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

203.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 200 wherein the

digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD))

prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

204.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 wherein the

license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital license

further comprising a license language tag specifying the license language.

205.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 wherein the

license is provided by a license server and the digital content is provided by a content server,

the license further comprising a certificate from the content server indicating that the license

server has authority from the content server to provide the license.

206.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 205 wherein the

license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

207.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 206 wherein the

content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the

private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the content

server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

208.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 wherein the

license is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the license, the

license further comprising a certificate from the root source indicating that the license server

has authority from the root source to provide the license.

209.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 208 wherein the

license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

210.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 209 wherein the

root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the

private key of the root source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root

source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

211.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 wherein the

license is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to provide the

license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to authorize the

license server, the license further comprising a first certificate from the root source indicating

that the intermediary source has authority from the root source to authorize the license server,

and a second certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has

authority from the intermediary source to provide the license.

212.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 211 wherein the

license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a

public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the

intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license

server.

213.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 212 wherein the

root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with the

private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private key of

the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to

decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device obtains the

public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the encrypted

signature of the second certificate.

214.   (Previously Presented)   The license of claim 198 in a form

separate from the digital content.

215.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium having

stored thereon a data structure corresponding to a digital license for rendering a piece of

digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a

content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the data

structure comprising:

a first data field containing the content ID of the digital content;

a second data field containing a license rights description specifying terms and

conditions that must be satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and

a third data field containing the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content, the decryption key being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)),

wherein the device can apply the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption

key (KD).

216.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 wherein

the license rights description is encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

217.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 further

comprising a fourth data field containing a digital signature for validating the license.

218.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 217 wherein

the data structure is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and

wherein the digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

219.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 217 wherein

the digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein

alteration of the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the

license.

220.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 217 wherein

the digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD))

prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

221.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 wherein

the license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital

license further comprising a fourth data field containing a license language tag specifying the

license language.

222.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 wherein

the data structure is provided by a license server and the digital content is provided by a

content server, the data structure further comprising a fourth data field containing a certificate

from the content server indicating that the license server has authority from the content server

to provide the data structure.

223.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 222 wherein

the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

224.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 223 wherein

the content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with

the private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the

content server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

225.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 wherein

the data structure is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the

license, the license further comprising a fourth data field containing a certificate from the root

source indicating that the license server has authority from the root source to provide the

license.

226.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 225 wherein

the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the

public key of the license server.

227.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 226 wherein

the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the

private key of the root source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root

source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

228.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 wherein

the data structure is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to

provide the license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to

authorize the license server, the license further comprising a fourth data field containing a

first certificate from the root source indicating that the intermediary source has authority from

the root source to authorize the license server, and a fifth data field containing a second

certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has authority from

the intermediary source to provide the license.

      229.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 228 wherein

the license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a

public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the

intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license

server.

      230.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 229 wherein

the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with

the private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private

key of the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root

source to decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device

obtains the public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the

encrypted signature of the second certificate.

      231.   (Previously Presented)   The data structure of claim 215 separate

from the digital content.

      232.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium having

computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a license requestor to obtain a

digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

contacting a license provider;

sending a license request for the license to the contacted license provider, the

license provider thereafter checking the license request for validity;

negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license

provider, the license provider thereafter generating the requested license; and

receiving the generated license as issued by the license provider.

233.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein the digital content has corresponding license acquisition information including a

location of a license provider for providing the license, the method further comprising

determining the location of the license provider from the license acquisition information,

wherein contacting the license provider comprises contacting the license provider at the

determined location.

234.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network,

and wherein contacting the license server occurs over the communications network.

235.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

234 wherein sending the license request and receiving the generated license occur over the

established network connection.

236.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content.

237.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a version number of the security portion, the license provider checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

238.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein

sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license

provider, the license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a

certifying authority certifying the security portion, license provider checking the certificate

with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital

signature has been modified.

239.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the

license provider, the license request information including an identification of the license

requestor, the license provider checking the identified license requestor against a list of

license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

240.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request

comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request

information including an identification of the device, the license provider checking the

identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

241.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the

license provider, the license request information including a content ID that identifies the

digital content, the license provider locating license provider information corresponding to

the digital content based on the content ID.

242.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

241 wherein the license provider information includes a decryption key (KD) for decrypting

the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content,

and terms and conditions for each type of license, the method further comprising receiving

from the license provider information on the types of licenses available for the digital

content.

243.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

241 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

244.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

243 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein

receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including the decryption

key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with

the public key of the device.

245.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

243 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a

digital signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license,

the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

246. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

243 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a

certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

247. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the

license provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a

decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the license provider locating the

decryption key (KD) based on the key ID.

248. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

247 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein

receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including the decryption key

(KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the

public key of the device.

249. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

232 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes providing further information to

the license provider as defined thereby.

250.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
232 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument
for paying for the requested license.

251.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
232 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule
for paying for the requested license.

252.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
232 wherein the license provider maintains a record of the issued license, the method further
comprising receiving from the license provider upon request a re-issue of the issued license
based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued
license in the case where the issued license is lost.

253.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
232 further comprising placing the issued license in a license storage location.

254.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
232 wherein the receiving the license step comprises receiving the license in a form separate
from the digital content.

255.   (Previously Presented).   A computer-readable medium having
computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a license provider to provide a
digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

receiving a request for the license from a license requestor;

checking the license request for validity;

negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license
requestor;

generating the requested license; and

issuing the generated license to the license requestor.

256.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
255 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network,
and wherein receiving the license request occurs over the communications network.

257.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
256 wherein issuing the generated license occur over the communications network.

258.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim
255 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, and
wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information
including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the

security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content.

259.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

258 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license

based on the license request information.

260.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

255 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein

receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a

version number of the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity

includes checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such

version number is current.

261.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

260 further comprising refusing to issue the requested license until the security portion is

upgraded to a version having a current version number.

262. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

263. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the license requestor, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

264. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

265. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the method further comprising

locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the

content ID, the license provider information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting

the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content,

and terms and conditions for each type of license.

266.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

265 further comprising transmitting to the license requestor information on the types of

licenses available for the digital content.

267.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

265 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

268.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

267 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including the

decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being

encrypted with the public key of the device.

269.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

267 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including

a digital signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated

license, the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

270.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

267 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including

a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated

license.

271.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information

including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the

method further comprising locating the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital

content based on the key ID.

272.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

271 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein

generating the requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key

(KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the

public key of the device.

273.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

255 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes receiving further information as

defined by the license provider.

274.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

275.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

276.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request.

277.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 255 further comprising maintaining a record of the issued license.

278.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 277 further comprising providing to the license requestor upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

279.   (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim

255 wherein the issuing the license step comprises issuing the license in a form separate from

the digital content.

280.   (New) A method for a server to provide to a client computer a digital

license of one or more rights to render digital content, the digital content encrypted with a

decryption key, the method comprising:

receiving, from the client computer, a license request, the license request

containing a key identifier that identifies the decryption key;

responsive to the request, generating a license response including a digital

rights license, the decryption key identified by the key identifier, and at least one server

certificate to be used by the client computer to validate the license response; and

transmitting the license response to the client computer.

281.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the license request includes a

content identifier, and a list containing one or more requested rights, and wherein the

generating further comprises:

generating the digital rights license based on the one or more requested rights.

282.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the license request includes a

client certificate associated with the client computer.

283.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the license response to the client computer as part of an HTML

page.

284.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein generating comprises:

at least partially encrypting one or more elements in the license response; and

encoding the license response.

285.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the license request includes a

public key associated with the client computer and wherein the generating comprises:

encrypting the decryption key with the public key to obtain an encrypted

decryption key;

encrypting the digital rights license with the decryption key to obtain an

encrypted digital rights license; and

generating the license response including the encrypted digital rights license,

the encrypted decryption key, and at least one certificate to be used by the client computer to

validate the license response.

286.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the at least one server

certificate comprises a first certificate for validating the server.

287.   (New) The method of claim 286 wherein the at least one server

certificate further comprises a second certificate for validating a second server associated

with the digital content.

288.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the license request is

contained in an HTTP request transmitted by the client computer to an address identified by

the digital content.

289.   (New) The method of claim 280 wherein the license request includes a

version number for a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system on the client computer.

290.   (New) A method for a server to provide to a client computer a digital

license of one or more rights to render digital content, the digital content encrypted with a

decryption key, the method comprising:

receiving, from the client computer, a license request, the license request

containing a key identifier that identifies the decryption key; and

responsive to the request, transmitting a license response to the client

computer, the license response including a digital rights license, the decryption key identified

by the key identifier, and at least one server certificate to be used by the client computer to

validate the license response.

291.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the license request includes a

content identifier, and a list containing one or more requested rights, and wherein the digital

rights license grants rights based on the one or more requested rights.

292.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the license request includes a

client certificate associated with the client computer.

293.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein transmitting comprises:

transmitting the license response to the client computer as part of an HTML

page.

294.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein transmitting further

comprises:

transmitting the license response in an encoded and at least partially encrypted

state.

295.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the license request includes a

public key associated with the client computer and wherein the transmitting further

comprises:

transmitting the decryption key as an encrypted decryption key, the encrypted

decryption key being the decryption key encrypted with the public key; and

transmitting the digital rights license as an encrypted digital rights license, the

encrypted digital rights license being the digital rights license encrypted with the decryption

key.

296.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the at least one server

certificate comprises a first certificate for validating the server.

297.   (New) The method of claim 296 wherein the at least one server

certificate further comprises a second certificate for validating a second server associated

with the digital content.

298.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the license request is

contained in an HTTP request transmitted by the client computer to an address identified by

the digital content.

299.   (New) The method of claim 290 wherein the license request includes a

version number for a Digital Rights Management (DRM) system on the client computer.